

DAREDEVIL

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



125
SEPT
02459



DAREDEVIL®

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

DEATH

BENEATH A STORM-SWEPT SKY!

YOU WANTED TO
LEARN *WHO* WAS
BURIED IN THIS GRAVE,
FOOL-- AND NOW
YOU *KNOW*...

IT'S
YOU!

"VENGEANCE!" CRIES THE **COPPERHEAD!**

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!**™

MARV WOLFGAN
WRITER

BOB BROWN & KLAUS JANSON
ARTISTS

JOHN COSTANZA
letterer

KLAUS JANSON
colorist

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

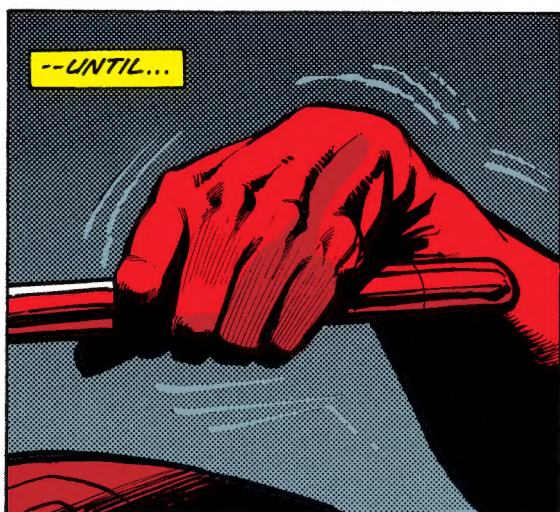
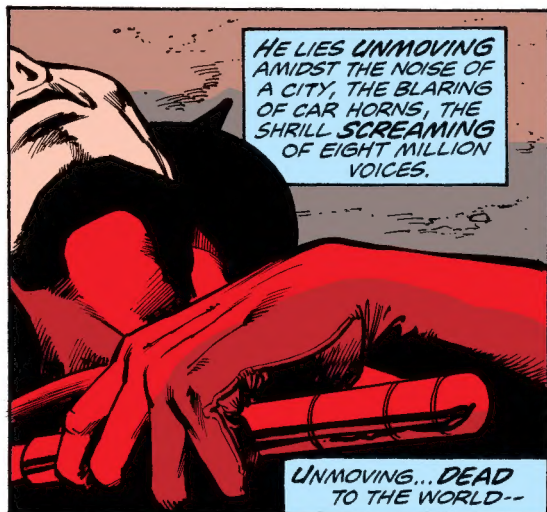
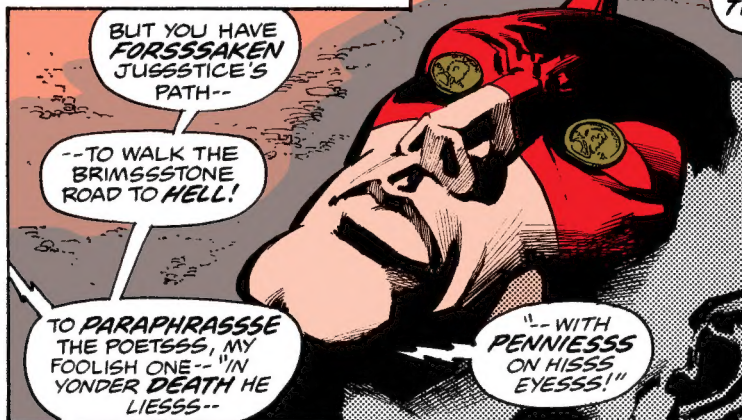
VENGEANCE IS THE COPPERHEAD!

I HAD HEARD THAT DAREDEVIL FOUGHT ON THE SSIDE OF JUSSTICE. BUT NOW YOU'VE SHOWN ME WHAT YOU TRULY ARE--

--JUSST ONE MORE FOOL WHO MUSST FEEL THE SSSTING OF-- THE COPPERHEAD!

AND, RATHER THAN BREAK THE ACTION RIGHT HERE FOR OUR CUSTOMARY INSTANT SYNOPSIS, JUST TURN THE PAGES AND READ ON, TRUSTED ONE.

WE GUARANTEE THE SSSTORY WILL SSSTOON MAKE PERFECT SSSENSE!



WHEW! A FEW MORE SECONDS AND HE WOULD HAVE SEEN ME **BREATHING!**

DD, OL' BUDDY-- GO HOME FOR THE NIGHT AND THANK YOUR **LUCKY STARS--**

--THAT YOUR **RADAR SENSE** PICKED UP THE COPPERHEAD'S PULLING OF THE **TRIGGER--**

--AND THAT **YOUR HANDS ARE FASTER THAN HIS EYES!**

BUT IT'S **NOT** BEDTIME FOR YOU YET, IS IT, DD?

MIDNIGHT'S WHEN THE FUN **BEGINS** FOR US HEROES IN LONG-JOHN'S.

ZING!

HMMM. I WONDER IF THOSE **OTHER** GUYS GET THEIR **REGULAR EIGHT HOURS?**

'CAUSE **THIS** LONESOME COW-BOY SURE DOESN'T!

AH WELL, THAT'S THE PRICE OF **FAME!**

FAME--? **HAAH!** THAT AND THIRTY-FIVE CENTS MAY **JUST ABOUT** BUY ME A SUBWAY RIDE THESE DAYS.

BUT DON'T **COUNT** ON IT.

NO SIGN OF THE COPPERHEAD! HE'S **LONG GONE** BY NOW--PROBABLY BRAGGING TO THE **OTHER GUTTER RATS** ABOUT HOW HE TURNED ME INTO **SCARLET SWISS CHEESE!**

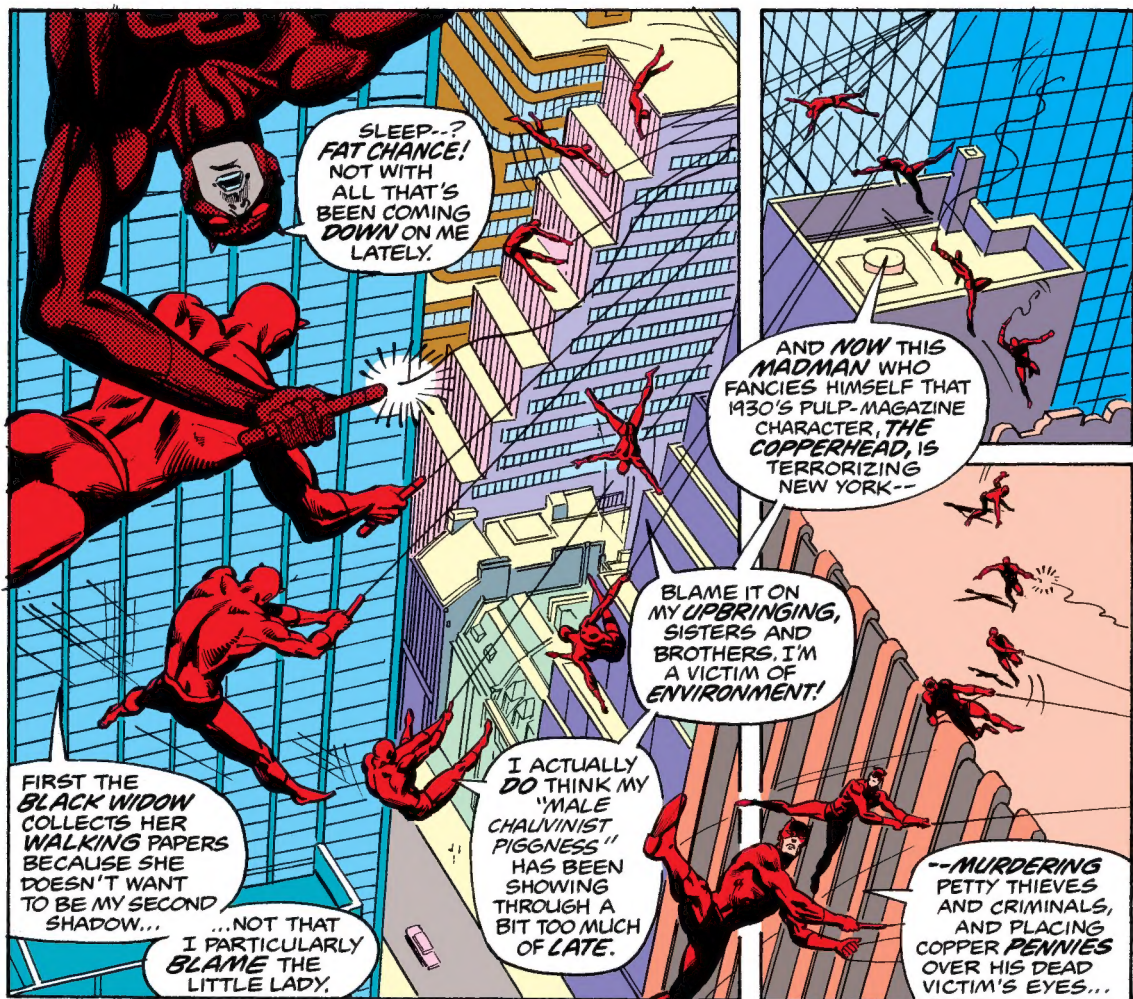
WHICH MEANS THERE'S NO **REASON** TO HANG AROUND **HERE** ANYMORE--

--UNLESS I GET MY **PRIVATE JOLLIES** BEING A CITY-SPANNING, **RADAR-SENSED VOYEUR!**

JUST **ONE MORE** GO-ROUND AND I'LL **PACK IT IN.**

FACT IS, I THINK THAT'S ABOUT **ALL** THE **ENERGY LEFT** IN THIS CURRENTLY **UNEMPLOYED** ATTORNEY.

AND, IF **MATT-THE-MOUTHPIECE** WANTS TO FIND A **JOB** TOMORROW, HE'D BETTER GET HIS **BEAUTY REST** TONIGHT.



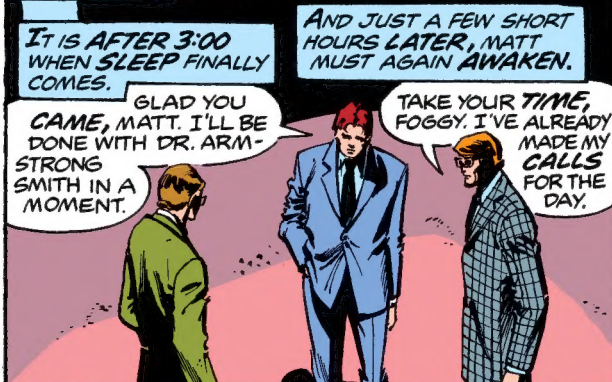
NIGHT: A TIME OF SUPPOSED QUIET, WHEN SLEEP COMES READILY TO MOST MANHATTANITES, BUT NOT FOR MATT MURDOCK. IMAGINE WHAT AGONIZING NOISES HIS SUPER-SENSITIVE HEARING MUST ACCIDENTALLY OVERHEAR. VOICES! CARS! ALL THE MIND-SHATTERING SOUNDS WHICH MOST OF US NORMALLY BLOCK OUT.

IT IS AFTER 3:00 WHEN SLEEP FINALLY COMES.

GLAD YOU CAME, MATT. I'LL BE DONE WITH DR. ARM-STRONG SMITH IN A MOMENT.

AND JUST A FEW SHORT HOURS LATER, MATT MUST AGAIN AWAKEN.

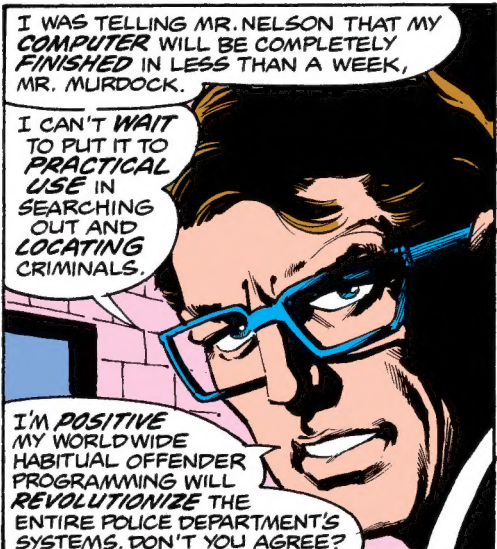
TAKE YOUR TIME, FOGGY. I'VE ALREADY MADE MY CALLS FOR THE DAY.



I WAS TELLING MR. NELSON THAT MY COMPUTER WILL BE COMPLETELY FINISHED IN LESS THAN A WEEK, MR. MURDOCK.

I CAN'T WAIT TO PUT IT TO PRACTICAL USE IN SEARCHING OUT AND LOCATING CRIMINALS.

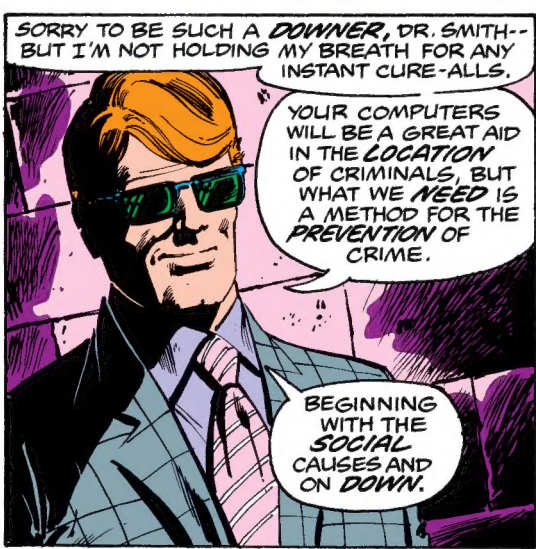
I'M POSITIVE MY WORLDWIDE HABITUAL OFFENDER PROGRAMMING WILL REVOLUTIONIZE THE ENTIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SYSTEMS. DON'T YOU AGREE?



SORRY TO BE SUCH A DOWNER, DR. SMITH-- BUT I'M NOT HOLDING MY BREATH FOR ANY INSTANT CURE-ALLS.

YOUR COMPUTERS WILL BE A GREAT AID IN THE LOCATION OF CRIMINALS, BUT WHAT WE NEED IS A METHOD FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME.

BEGINNING WITH THE SOCIAL CAUSES AND ON DOWN.

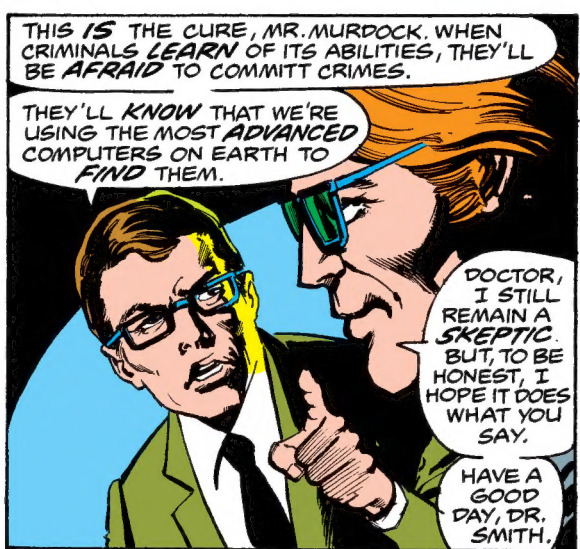


THIS IS THE CURE, MR. MURDOCK. WHEN CRIMINALS LEARN OF ITS ABILITIES, THEY'LL BE AFRAID TO COMMIT CRIMES.

THEY'LL KNOW THAT WE'RE USING THE MOST ADVANCED COMPUTERS ON EARTH TO FIND THEM.

DOCTOR, I STILL REMAIN A SKEPTIC. BUT, TO BE HONEST, I HOPE IT DOES WHAT YOU SAY.

HAVE A GOOD DAY, DR. SMITH.



I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO UP-TIGHT ABOUT SMITH, MATT. I HAVE THE GREATEST CONFIDENCE IN HIM.

BESIDES, I THINK THAT LITTLE GIZMO OF HIS WILL HELP ME WIN MY RE-ELECTION.

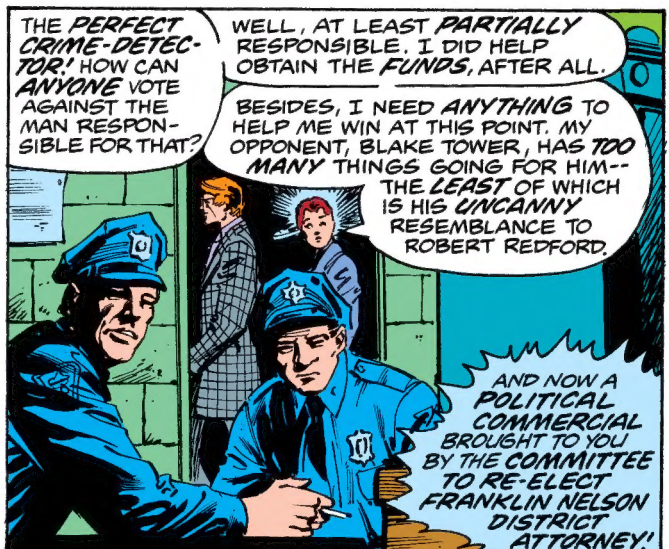


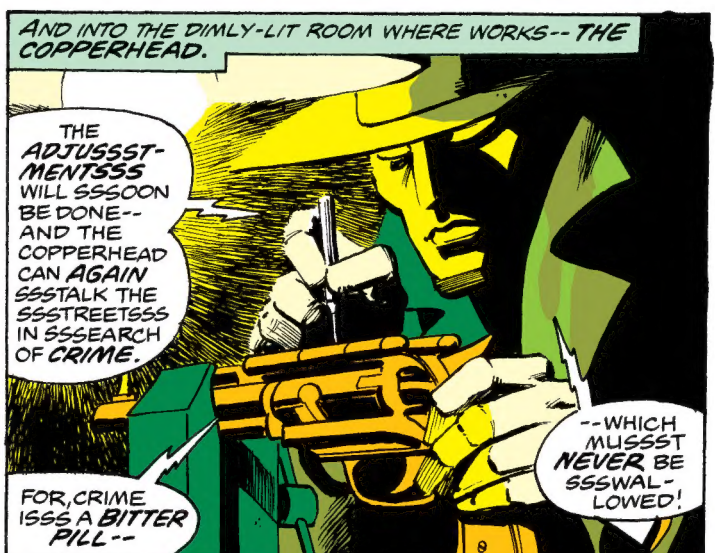
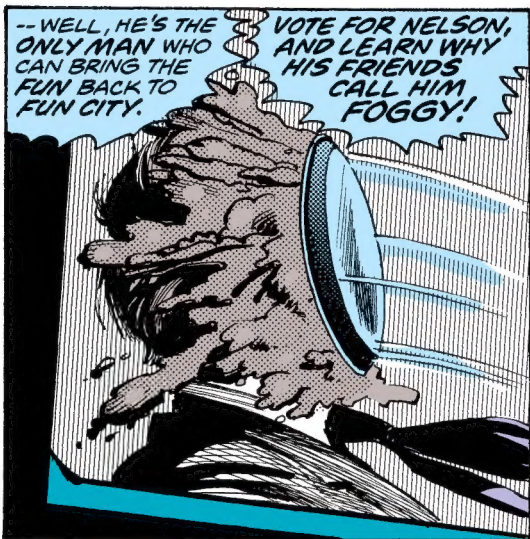
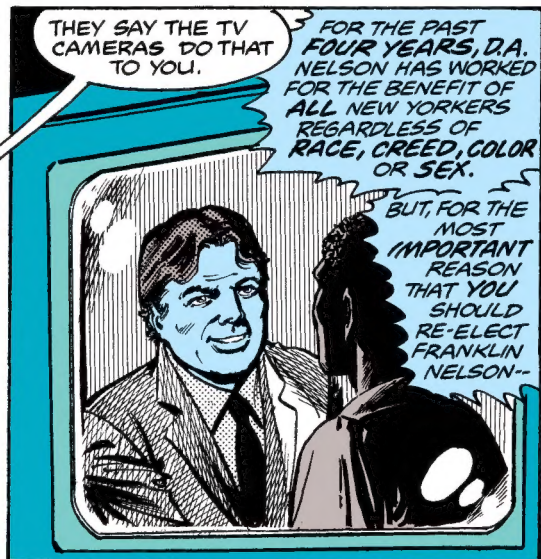
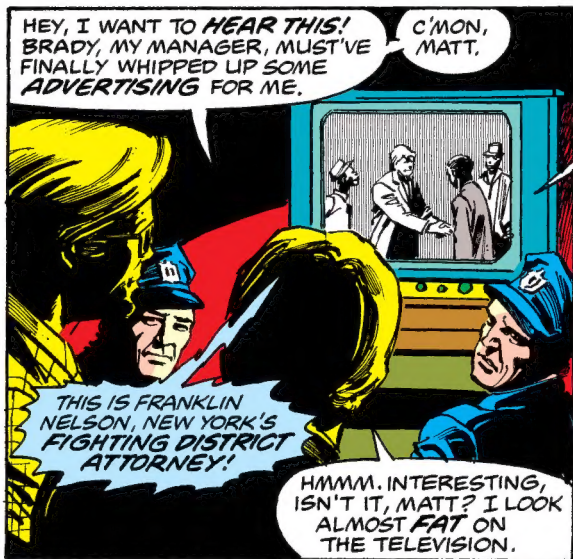
THE PERFECT CRIME-DETECTOR? HOW CAN ANYONE VOTE AGAINST THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT?

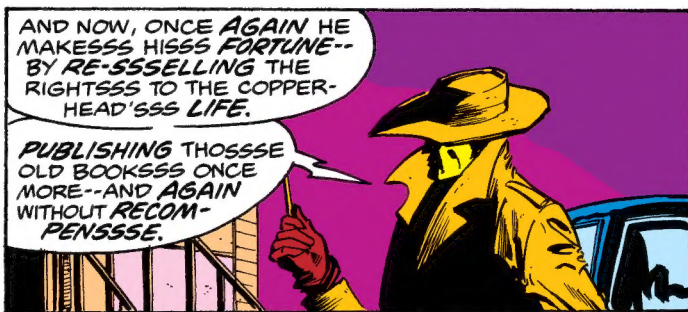
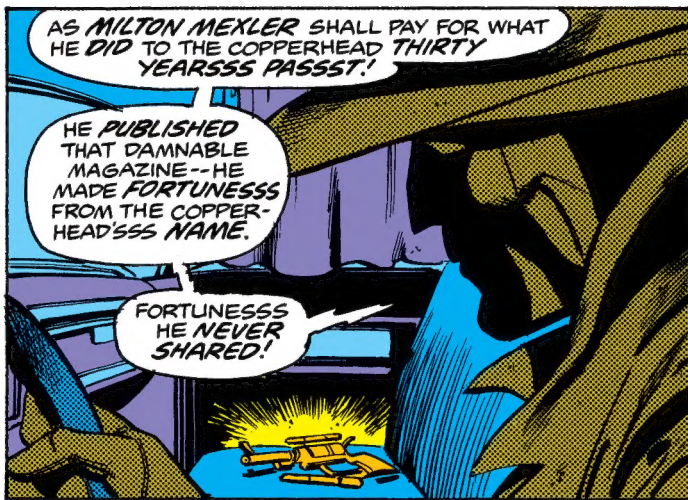
WELL, AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE. I DID HELP OBTAIN THE FUNDS, AFTER ALL.

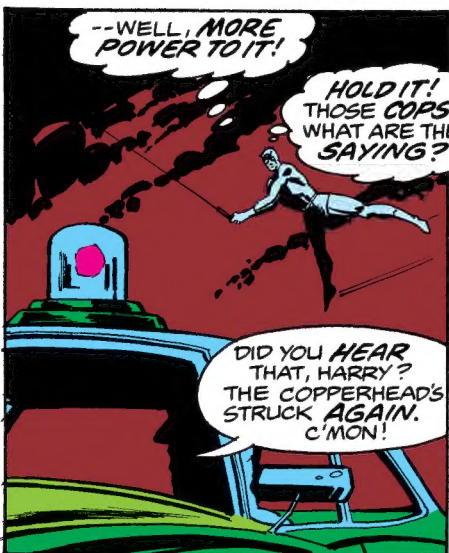
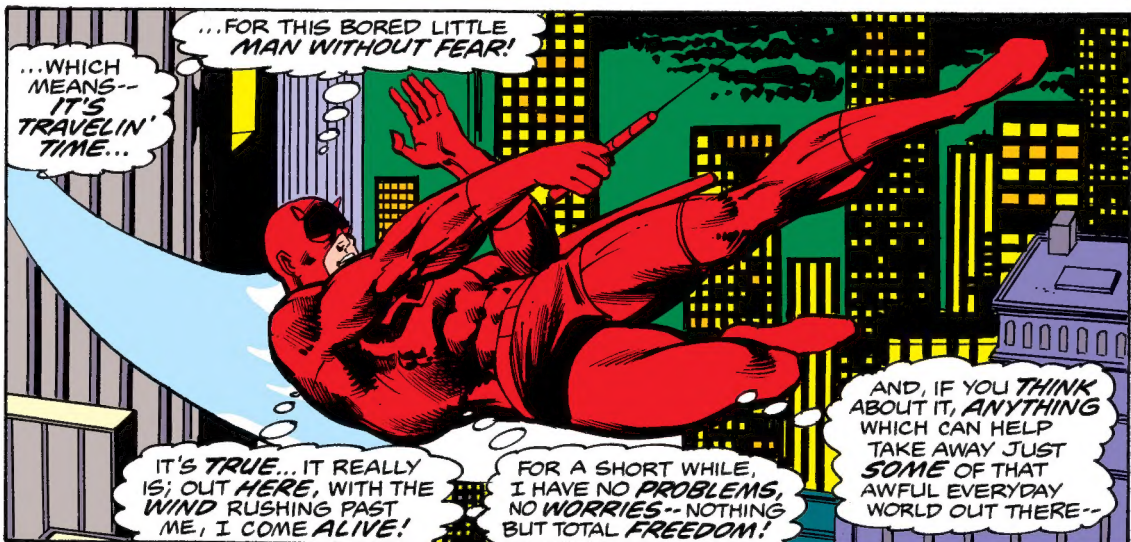
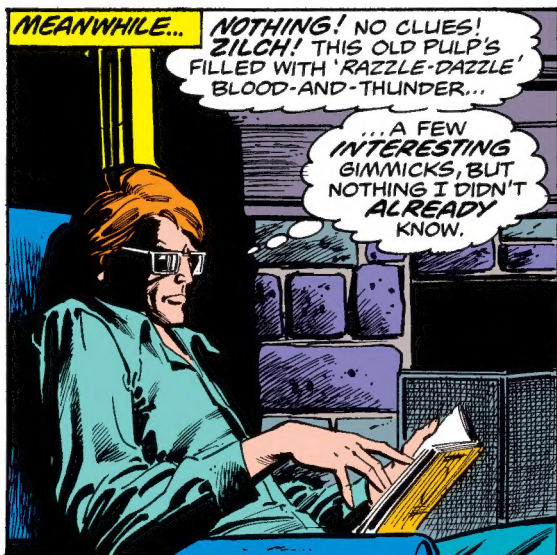
BESIDES, I NEED ANYTHING TO HELP ME WIN AT THIS POINT. MY OPPONENT, BLAKE TOWER, HAS TOO MANY THINGS GOING FOR HIM-- THE LEAST OF WHICH IS HIS UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO ROBERT REDFORD.

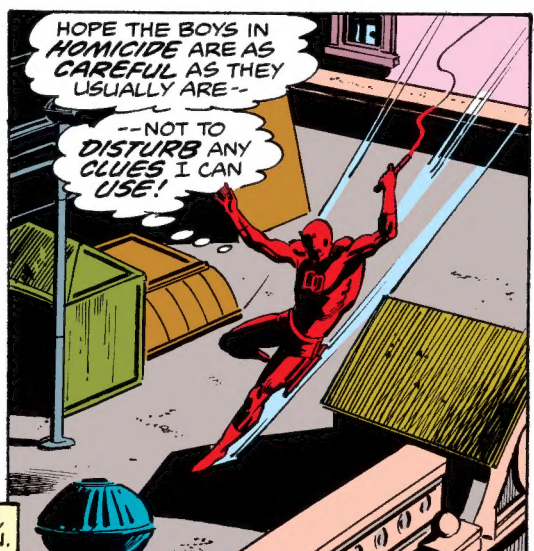
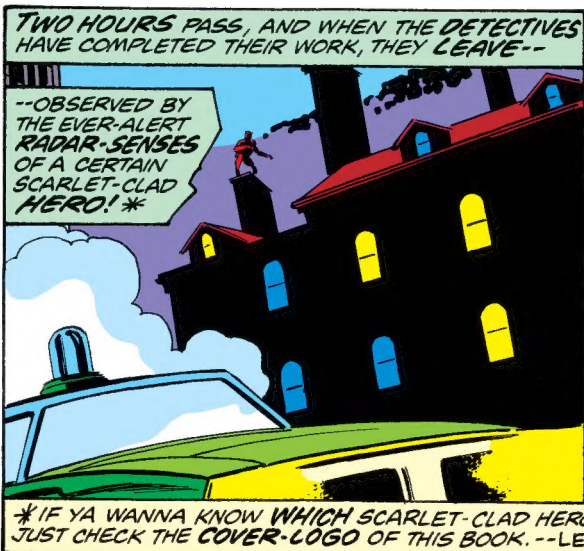
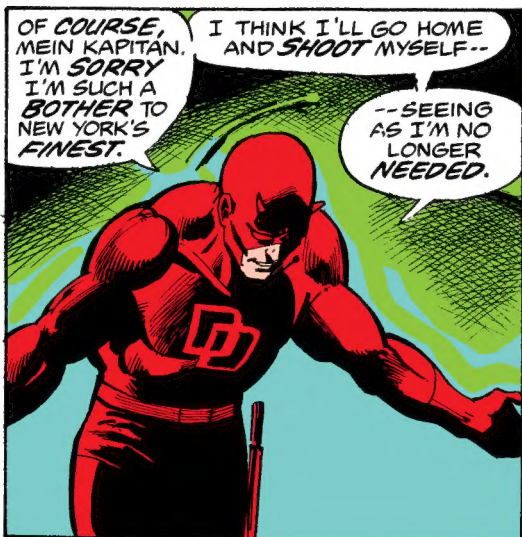
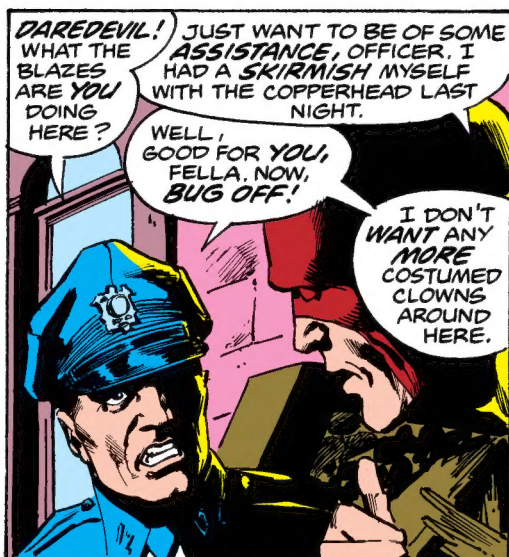
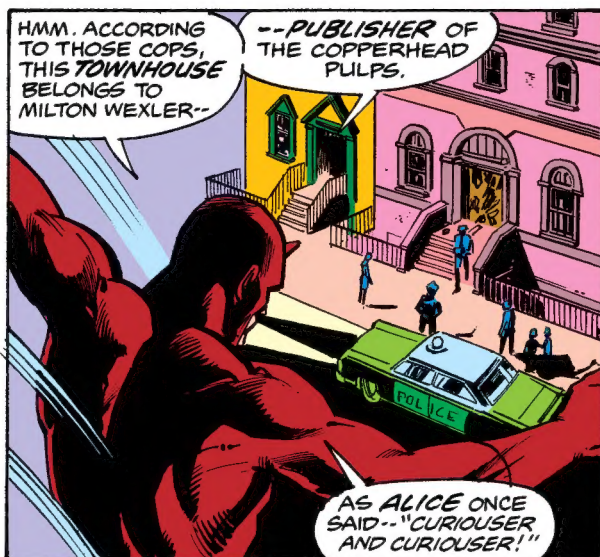
AND NOW A POLITICAL COMMERCIAL BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT FRANKLIN NELSON DISTRICT ATTORNEY!









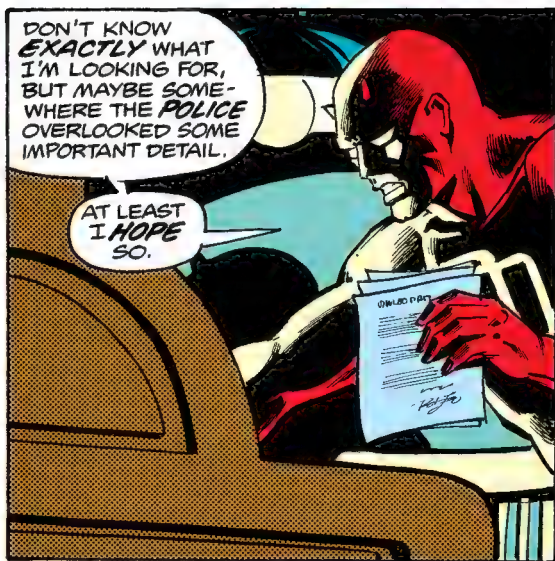




A LIBRARY-- I
SMELL YELLOWING
PULP PAPER--

--AND
BOOKS.
THOUSANDS
OF THEM.

IF ONLY THEY
WEREN'T ALL
COPPERHEAD
PULPS, I'D SAY
WEXLER WAS
ONE WELL-
READ GENT.



DON'T KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
I'M LOOKING FOR,
BUT MAYBE SOME-
WHERE THE POLICE
OVERLOOKED SOME
IMPORTANT DETAIL.

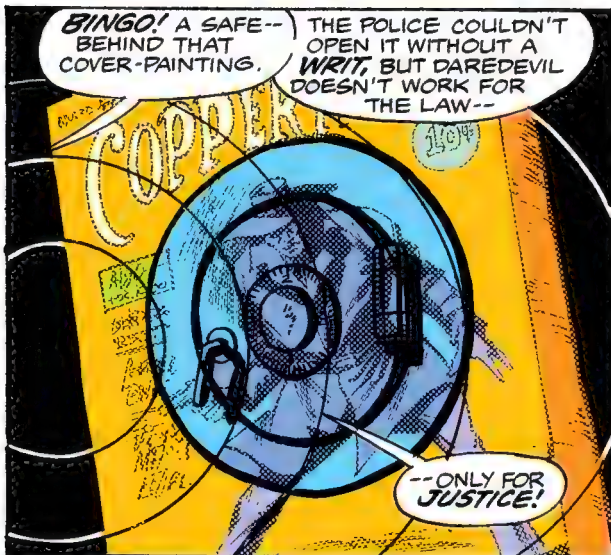
AT LEAST
I HOPE
SO.



WEXLER'S PAPERS SAY *NOTHING*,
BUT THAT ISN'T SURPRISING.

FROM WHAT I GATHER,
WEXLER'S A GREEDY,
SELFISH, *SECRETIVE*
TYPE WHO WOULDN'T
LEAVE *ANYTHING*
OUT IN THE OPEN.

WHICH
MEANS
THERE
JUST
MAY
BE A--



BINGO! A SAFE--
BEHIND THAT
COVER-PAINTING.

THE POLICE COULDN'T
OPEN IT WITHOUT A
WRIT, BUT DAREDEVIL
DOESN'T WORK FOR
THE LAW--

-- ONLY FOR
JUSTICE!



ALL RIGHT, SUPER-HEARING--
DO YOUR *STUFF*!

TUMBLERS
CLICKING
INTO PLACE.

THE SAFE'S
OPENING.



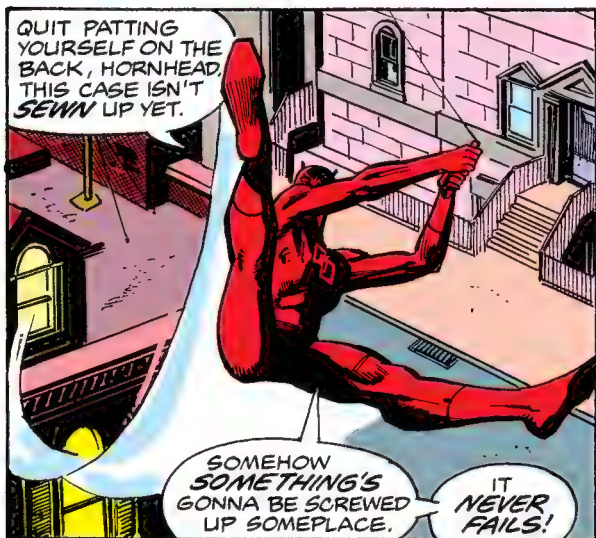
BOOKS,
RECORDS,
AND...

WHOA THERE,
HERO--A
DIARY!
THIS MAY
JUST BE WHAT
I'M SEARCH-
ING FOR.



WEXLER WAS A
FASTIDIOUS
MAN--EVERY-
THING WAS
NEATLY DATED
AND FILED.
BEAUTIFUL!

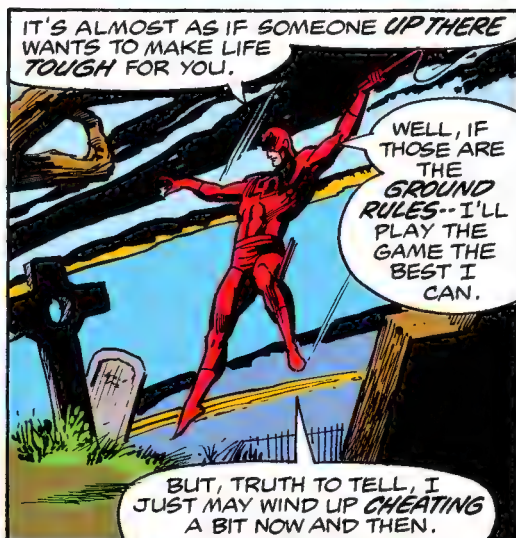
I'D *KISS* THE MAN IF I
WERE INTO NECROPHILIA.



QUIT PATTING
YOURSELF ON THE
BACK, HORNHEAD.
THIS CASE ISN'T
SEWN UP YET.

SOMEHOW
SOMETHING'S
GONNA BE SCREWED
UP SOMEPLACE.

IT
NEVER
FAILS!



IT'S ALMOST AS IF SOMEONE *UP THERE*
WANTS TO MAKE LIFE
TOUGH FOR YOU.

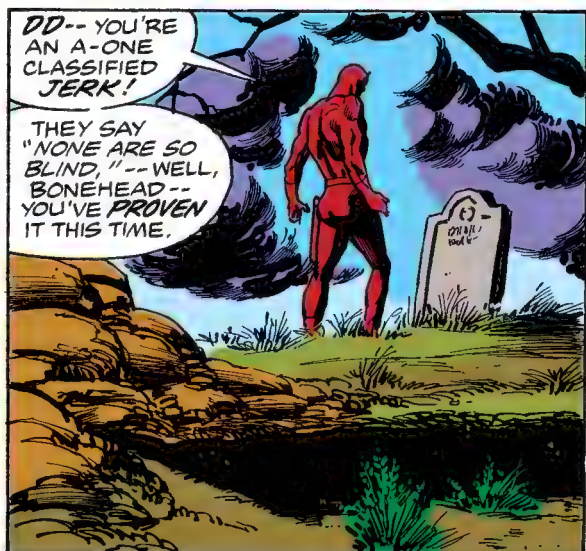
WELL, IF
THOSE ARE
THE
GROUND
RULES--I'LL
PLAY THE
GAME THE
BEST I
CAN.

BUT, TRUTH TO TELL, I
JUST MAY WIND UP *CHEATING*
A BIT NOW AND THEN.



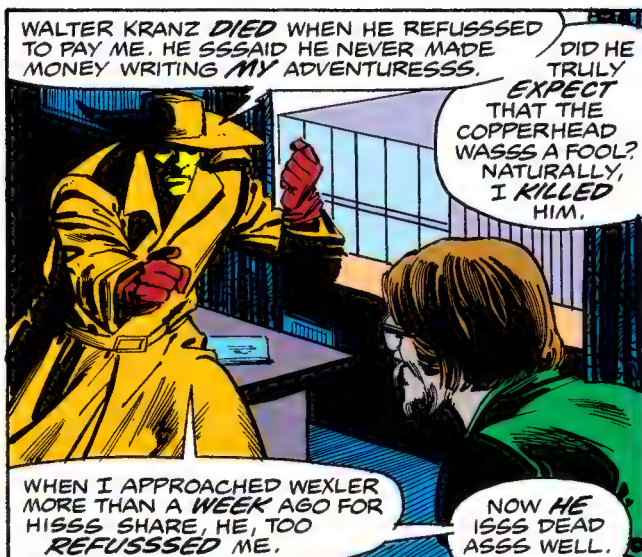
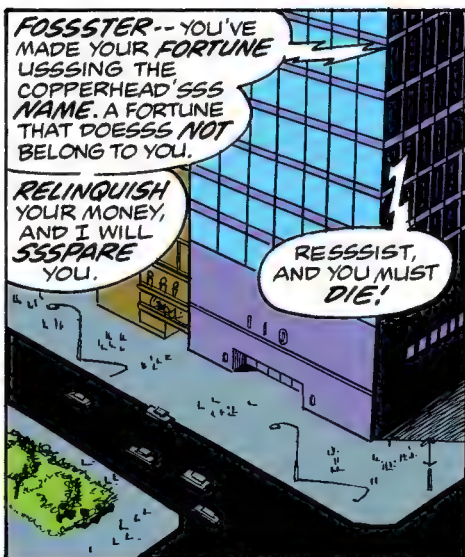
CHESNEY'S GRAVE--
UNOPENED. I DIDN'T
THINK IT *HAD* BEEN--
BUT I HAD TO CHECK
IT OUT MYSELF.

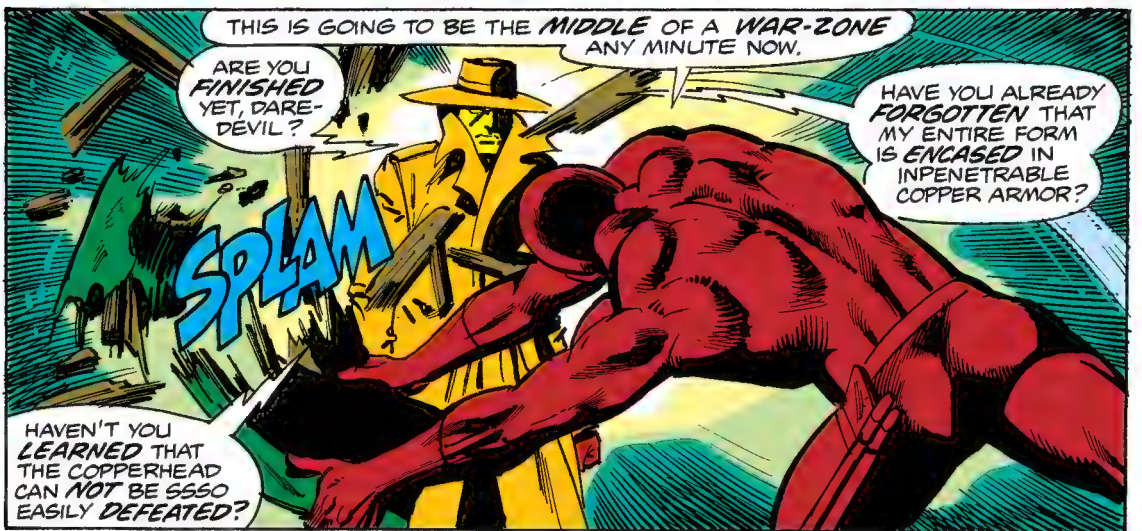
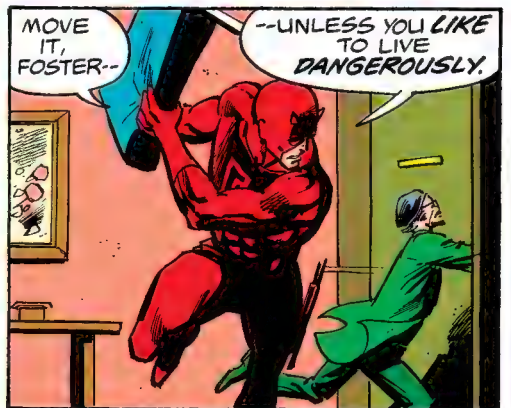
IT WAS A
WILD GUESS,
I'LL ADMIT.
BUT I THOUGHT
I HAD EVERY-
THING FIGURED
OUT.

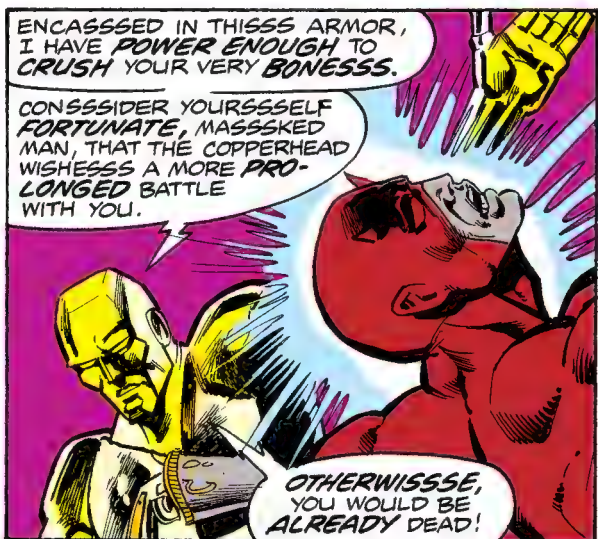


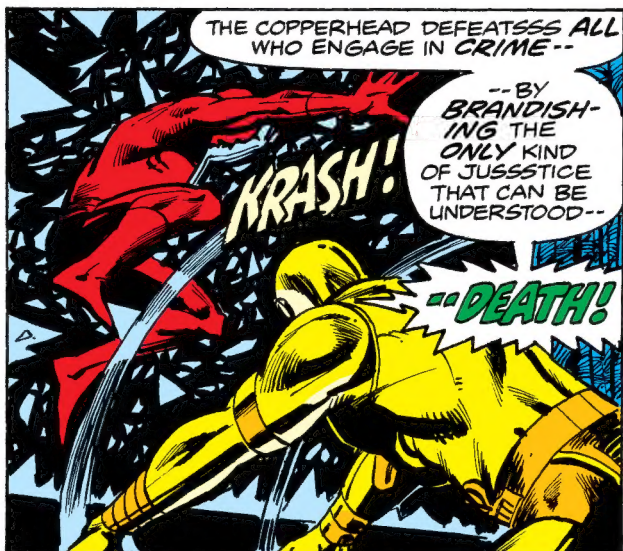
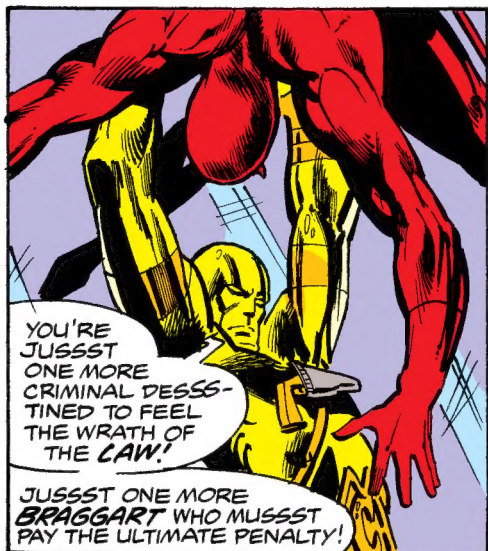
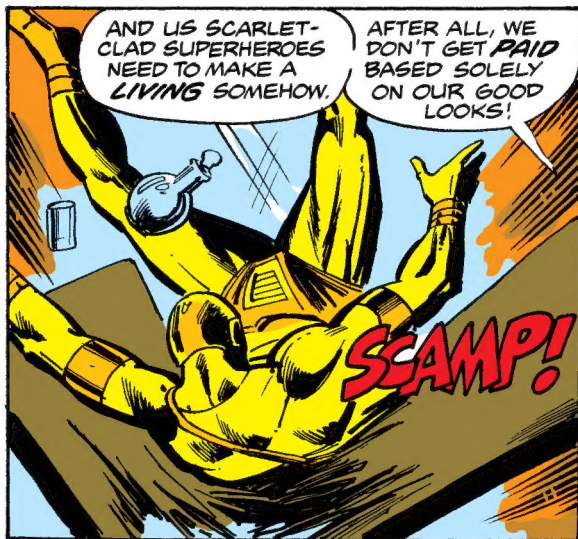
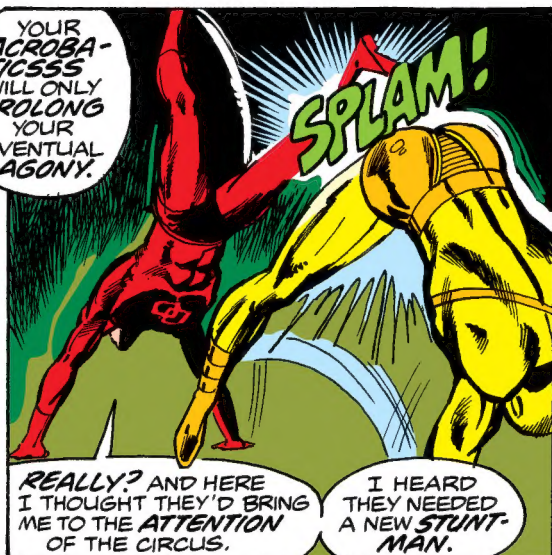
DD-- YOU'RE
AN A-ONE
CLASSIFIED
JERK!

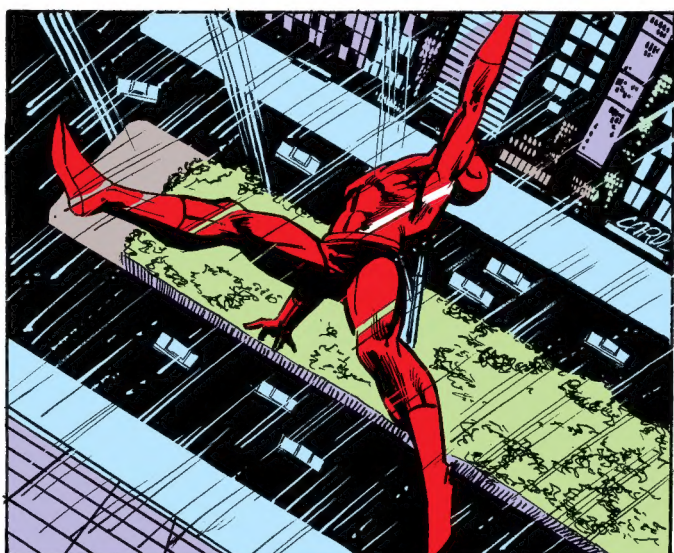
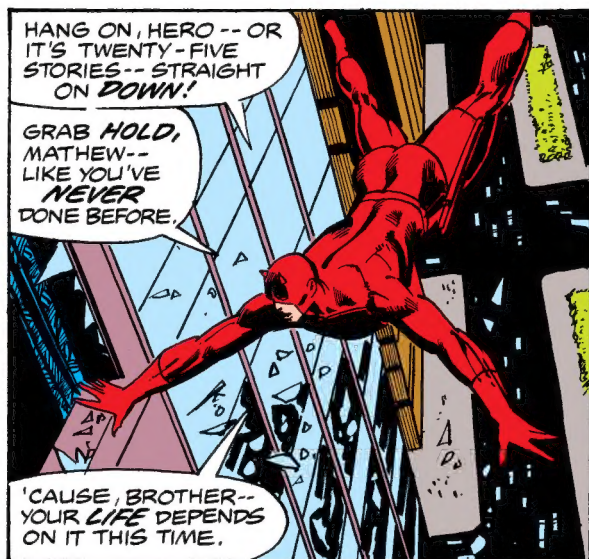
THEY SAY
"NONE ARE SO
BLIND,"--WELL,
BONEHEAD--
YOU'VE *PROVEN*
IT THIS TIME.

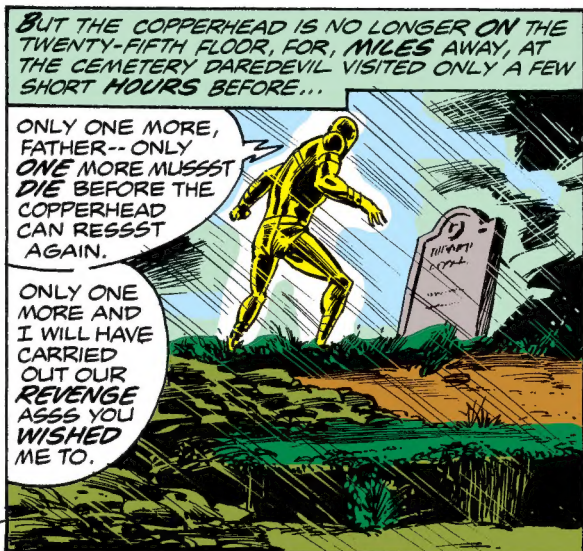
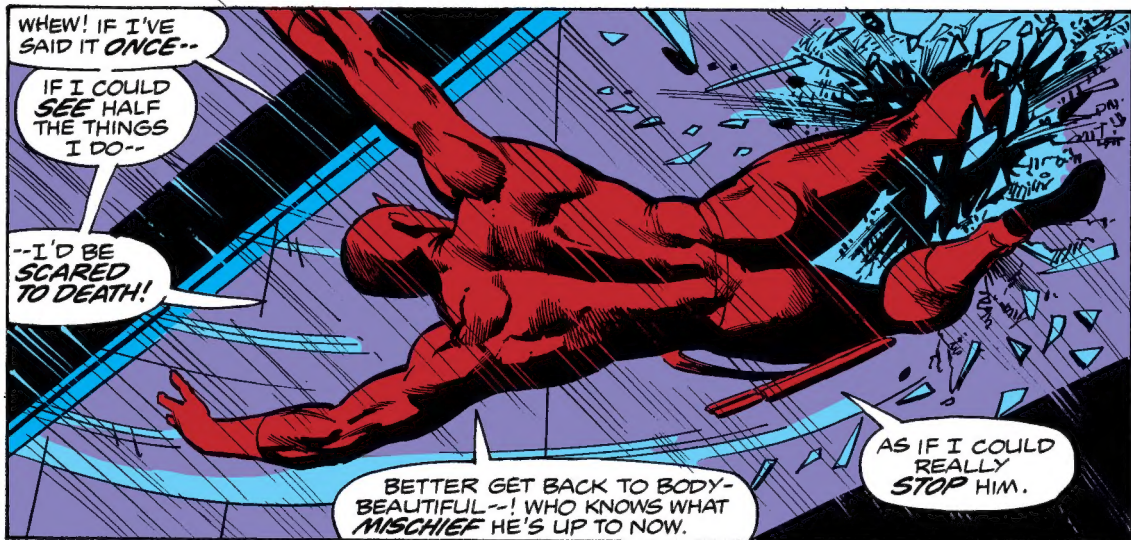
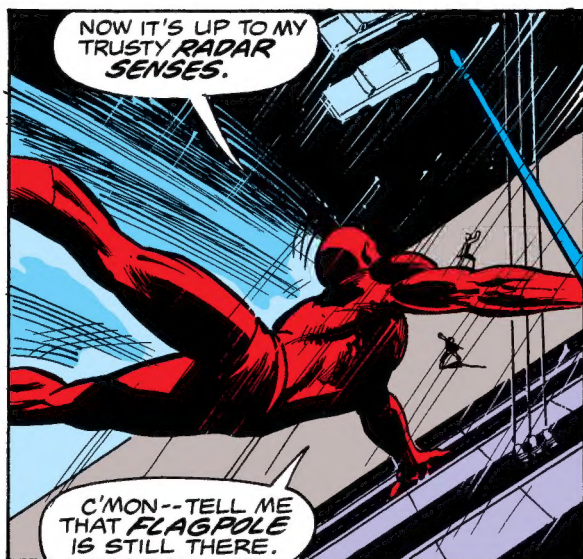


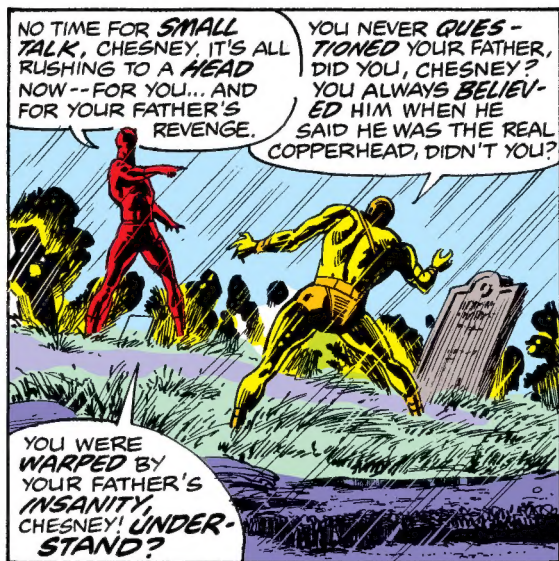








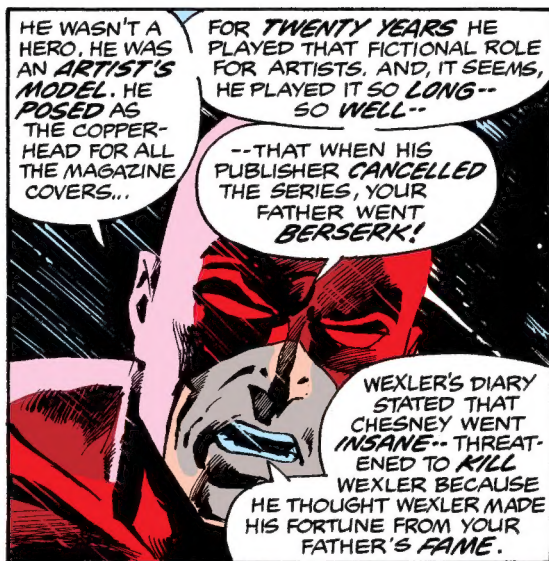




NO TIME FOR **SMALL TALK**, CHESNEY, IT'S ALL RUSHING TO A **HEAD** NOW--FOR YOU... AND FOR YOUR FATHER'S REVENGE.

YOU NEVER **QUESTIONED** YOUR FATHER, DID YOU, CHESNEY? YOU ALWAYS **BELIEVED** HIM WHEN HE SAID HE WAS THE REAL COPPERHEAD, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU WERE **WARPED** BY YOUR FATHER'S **INSANITY**, CHESNEY! **UNDER-stand?**

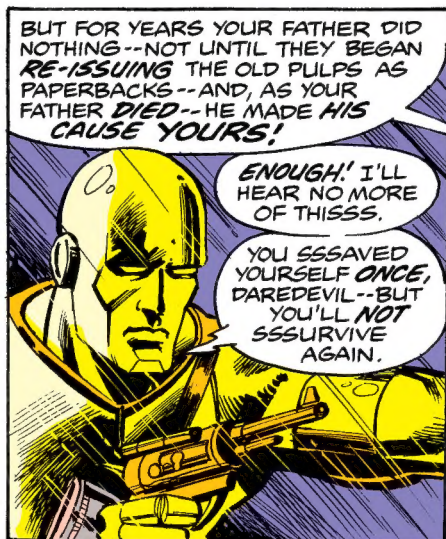


HE WASN'T A HERO. HE WAS AN **ARTIST'S MODEL**. HE **POSED** AS THE COPPER-HEAD FOR ALL THE MAGAZINE COVERS...

FOR **TWENTY YEARS** HE PLAYED THAT FICTIONAL ROLE FOR ARTISTS. AND, IT SEEMS, HE PLAYED IT SO **LONG--SO WELL--**

--THAT WHEN HIS PUBLISHER **CANCELLED** THE SERIES, YOUR FATHER WENT **BERSERK!**

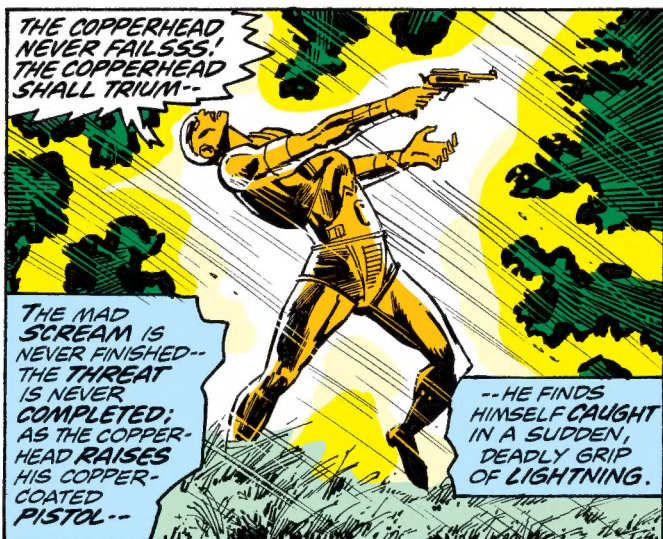
WEXLER'S DIARY STATED THAT CHESNEY WENT **INSANE--** THREAT-ENED TO **KILL** WEXLER BECAUSE HE THOUGHT WEXLER MADE HIS FORTUNE FROM YOUR FATHER'S FAME.



BUT FOR YEARS YOUR FATHER DID NOTHING--NOT UNTIL THEY BEGAN **RE-ISSUING** THE OLD PULPS AS PAPERBACKS--AND, AS YOUR FATHER **DIED--** HE MADE HIS **CAUSE YOURS!**

ENOUGH! I'LL HEAR NO MORE OF THISSS.

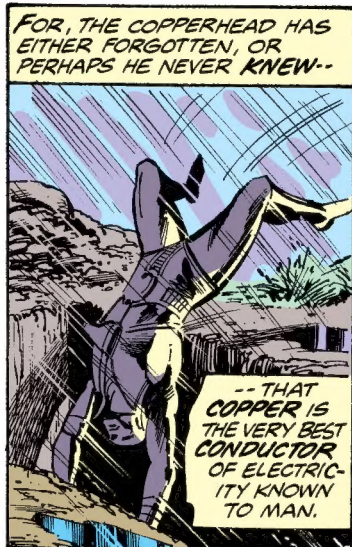
YOU **SSSAVED** YOURSELF **ONCE**, DAREDEVIL--BUT YOU'LL **NOT** **SSSURVIVE** AGAIN.



THE COPPERHEAD NEVER FAILSSS! THE COPPERHEAD SHALL TRIUM--

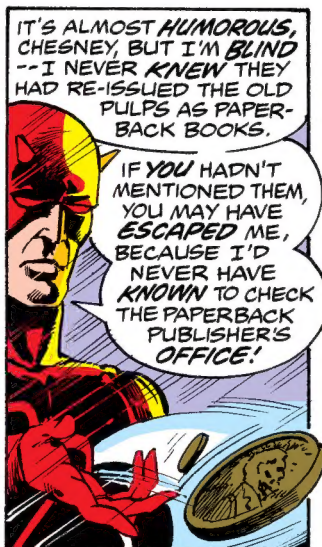
THE MAD SCREAM IS NEVER FINISHED--THE THREAT IS NEVER COMPLETED; AS THE COPPER-HEAD RAISES HIS COPPER-COATED PISTOL--

--HE FINDS HIMSELF CAUGHT IN A SUDDEN, DEADLY GRIP OF LIGHTNING.



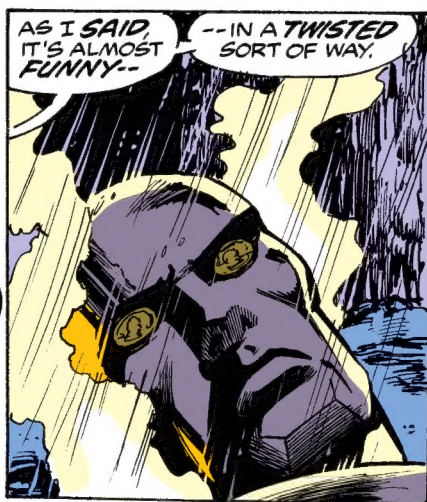
FOR, THE COPPERHEAD HAS EITHER FORGOTTEN, OR PERHAPS HE NEVER **KNEW--**

-- THAT COPPER IS THE VERY BEST CONDUCTOR OF ELECTRICITY KNOWN TO MAN.



IT'S ALMOST **HUMOROUS**, CHESNEY, BUT I'M **BLIND** --I NEVER **KNEW** THEY HAD RE-ISSUED THE OLD PULPS AS PAPERBACK BOOKS.

IF YOU HADN'T MENTIONED THEM, YOU MAY HAVE **ESCAPED** ME, BECAUSE I'D NEVER HAVE **KNOWN** TO CHECK THE PAPERBACK PUBLISHER'S OFFICE!



AS I SAID, IT'S ALMOST **FUNNY--**

--IN A **TWISTED** SORT OF WAY.

NEXT: the **TORPEDO STRIKES!**